

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An information processing apparatus communicatively linked to an IC card for reading out information recorded in the IC card, comprising:

a first memory configured to store an executable application for accessing information recorded in said IC card;

information acquisition means for acquiring said information recorded in said IC card by executing said application, said application being executable only when said information processing apparatus is in a polling mode in which detection and verification of said IC card is performed;

a second memory configured to store ~~information storage means for storing~~ said information acquired by said information acquisition means when said information processing apparatus is in said polling mode;

information processing means for performing a predetermined process in preparation for displaying said information on a visual display; and

information display control means for controlling display of said information acquired by said information acquisition means on the visual display.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): An information processing method for an information processing apparatus communicatively linked to an IC card for reading out information recorded in the IC card, comprising:

storing an executable application for accessing information recorded in said IC card;

acquiring said information recorded in said IC card by executing said application, said application being executable only when said information processing apparatus is in a polling mode in which detection and verification of said IC card is performed;

storing in an electronic memory the acquired information acquired when said information processing apparatus is in said polling mode;

performing a predetermined process on a processor of the information processing apparatus in preparation for displaying the information on a visual display; and

controlling display of the acquired information on the visual display.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A computer readable storage medium encoded with a computer readable program configured to cause an information processing apparatus communicatively linked with an IC card for reading out information recorded in the IC card to execute a method, the method comprising:

storing an executable application for accessing information recorded in said IC card;

acquiring said information recorded in said IC card by executing said application, said application being executable only when said information processing apparatus is in a polling mode in which detection and verification of said IC card is performed;

storing in an electronic memory the acquired information acquired when said information processing apparatus is in said polling mode;

performing a predetermined process on a processor of the information processing apparatus in preparation for displaying the information on a visual display; and

controlling display of the acquired information on the visual display.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): An information processing apparatus communicatively linked to an IC card for reading out information recorded in the IC card, comprising:

a first memory configured to store an executable application for accessing information recorded in said IC card, said application being executable only when said information processing apparatus is in a polling mode, said polling mode being a mode in which detection and verification of said IC card is performed;

IC card detection means for detecting said IC card in a communicatable state when said information processing apparatus is in said polling mode, said detecting being in preparation for displaying said information on a visual display;

type discrimination means for discriminating a type of said IC card detected by said IC card detection means;

information acquisition means for acquiring the information stored in said IC card when a result of said type discrimination means indicates that said IC card is a legal type card, the information being acquired by executing said application when said information processing apparatus is in said polling mode; and

information display control means for controlling display of said information acquired by said information acquisition means on the visual display.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): An information processing apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said IC card is a contactless IC card communicatively linked to a communication apparatus positioned in the proximity thereof.

Claim 6 (Original): An information processing apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said detection means includes detection signal outputting means for outputting a

predetermined detection signal, and response acquisition means for acquiring a response to said detection signal supplied from said IC card to said information processing apparatus and outputted from said detection signal outputting means, said detection means detecting the IC card which is in a communicatable state through acquisition of said response by said response acquisition means.

Claim 7 (Original): An information processing apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the information includes identification information of said IC card and balance information of electronic money recorded in said IC card.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): An information processing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the information recorded in the IC card is encrypted using an encryption key, further comprising:

identification information requesting means for requesting the identification information of said IC card;

decryption key supplying means for supplying a decryption key corresponding to the encryption key used to decrypt said information to said IC card; and

identification information acquisition means for acquiring the identification information of said IC card decrypted by said IC card using said decryption key, said type discrimination means discriminating the type of said IC card based on said type of said decryption key used for the decryption of said identification information.

Claim 9 (Original): An information processing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said information display control means controls display of said information so that said information may be displayed for a predetermined period of time.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): An information processing apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising:

remaining time counting means for counting remaining display time when said information is displayed for said predetermined period of time under the control of said information display control means.

Claim 11 (Original): An information processing apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said information display control means causes said remaining display time counted by said remaining time counting means to be displayed together with said information.

Claim 12 (Original): An information processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said information display control means causes said remaining display time to be displayed in the form of an indicator or a message.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): An information processing apparatus according to claim 12, further comprising:

sound outputting means for outputting a predetermined sound in synchronism with the display of said information as a notification that the information is being displayed.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): An information processing method for an information processing apparatus communicatively linked to an IC card for reading out information recorded in the IC card, comprising:

storing an executable application for accessing information recorded in said IC card,
said application being executable only when said information processing apparatus is in a

polling mode, said polling mode being a mode in which detection and verification of said IC card is performed;

detecting said IC card in a communicatable state when said information processing apparatus is in said polling mode, the detecting being in preparation for displaying said information on a visual display;

discriminating a type of said IC card detected by the process of the detecting said IC card;

acquiring said information stored in said IC card when a result of said discrimination by the process of the discriminating the type of said IC card indicates that said IC card is a legal type card, the information being acquired by executing said application when said information processing apparatus is in said polling mode; and

controlling display of said acquired information on the visual display.

Claims 15-28 (Canceled).

Claim 29 (New): An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said executable application includes an application for at least one of displaying history information indicating usage of said IC card, and a process for displaying balance information recorded in said IC card.

Claim 30 (New): An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

initialization means for executing an initialization process upon activation of said executable application, wherein said information processing apparatus is only in said polling mode when the initialization process is completed without error.

Claim 31 (New): An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said polling mode includes displaying an initial screen to prompt a user to position said IC card in a proximity of said information processing apparatus and so as not to cover a logo on said IC card, outputting an IC card detection signal in a predetermined communication protocol to said IC card positioned in the proximity of said information processing apparatus, and outputting a response signal indicating that said IC card is in the proximity of said information processing apparatus, only when said IC card is compatible with said predetermined communication protocol.

Claim 32 (New): An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said polling mode includes supplying an encryption/decryption key corresponding to a type of said IC card of an object of said application, and issuing a request for information recorded on said IC card.

Claim 33 (New): An information processing apparatus according to claim 31, wherein said polling mode further includes supplying an encryption key corresponding to a type of said IC card of an object of said application and issuing a request for IC card information, supplying a decryption key used to decrypt said IC card information stored in an encrypted form only when said encryption key is compatible with said executable application, and supplying the decrypted information to said information processing apparatus.

Claim 34 (New): An information processing apparatus according to claim 33, wherein said polling mode further includes switching off a power supply to said information processing apparatus and exiting said polling mode.

Claim 35 (New): An information processing apparatus according to claim 33, wherein said polling mode further includes prompting a user to delete history information of said IC card use, and upon confirmation, said information processing apparatus exits said polling mode and enters a history deletion mode in which said history information of said IC card use is deleted from said information processing apparatus, only when said information processing apparatus is not in said polling mode.